

Dear Chairman
Martin:

I am writing to challenge the Comcast/Time Warner/Adelphia merger (FCC Docket No. 05-192) and the AT&T/BellSouth merger (FCC Docket No. 06-74). Allowing the largest telecommunications company and the two largest cable companies and in the United States to grow even larger does not serve the public interest.

The concentration of media power is a growing problem in this country. Though we have more channels available than ever before, they are increasingly falling under the control of a handful of giant corporations. The cost of broadband service also remains out of reach for many households. Americans are hungry

for more competition
in services.
However, these
mergers will only
starve Americans of
this needed
competition.

Allowing AT&T to
combine with
BellSouth will give
the top three
broadband providers
control of over half
of all broadband
connections in the
country. At the same
time, the Time
Warner/Comcast/Adelphia
merger will give
Comcast and Time
Warner increased
power over entire
regions of the
United States,
allowing rates to
rise even as the
digital divide
continues to grow.

The FCC should block
these transactions
or impose strict
conditions to
protect free speech
and competition
under its "public
interest standard."
If the FCC decides

to allow either of these mergers, it should require the following conditions:

1. Subscribers must be able to choose from competitive Internet Service Providers ("open access"). The FCC should also ensure that these companies cannot discriminate against any Internet content or rival service and that every service will be treated exactly the same ("Network Neutrality").

2. Companies must be required to sell broadband access separate from video and telephone service, and at the same price ("naked broadband" or "unbundling").

3. Any subscriber must be able to connect any device to the network (such as a Wi-Fi router) that does not harm

the network.

4. Take steps to protect public access programming ("PEG"). Cable companies have become less responsive to the needs and requirements of communities. The quality of public accountability in local franchise agreements has declined, as big companies leverage their power to squeeze local governments. Likewise, telecommunications giants — like AT&T — are trying to eliminate the remaining vestiges of effective local oversight and control altogether.

5. Independent programmers must be able to reach subscribers. We are required to buy channels we don't want or need because providers of video

service bundle them together.

6. Any company that owns both programming and video systems should be required to provide competitors with access to their regional sports and other programming needed to offer competing services, so consumers will still have real choices.

In conclusion, I ask the FCC to consider the interests of the people like me who pay the cable, telephone and broadband bills and watch the programming. Many of us already have enough trouble trying to afford broadband or cable TV. Please don't make it even harder for us to find competitors, or make it easier for Comcast, Time Warner and AT&T to raise prices or block

local and
independent voices.

The public interest
is a standard that
conceives of the
public as CITIZENS
and not merely
consumers.

Communications
technologies are of
central importance
to constituting
healthy citizenship
practices.

Accordingly the FCC
needs to act more
boldly to protect
the public as
consumers as well as
citizens. Access to
communications
technologies such as
provided through
PEGs must be
strongly protected,
and new and creative
mechanisms for
satellite programmers
to yield access
rights to community
interest groups must
also be created.

Finally, creating a
truly diverse
ownership media
system should be of
central importance

to the FCC; allowing
communications
companies to create
an oligopoly is
anathema to the
spirit and letter of
the law that created
your agency. It's
high time to serve
and protect the
public interest Mr.
Martin.